

Local Health Department Efforts to Implement & Promote Extragenital Testing



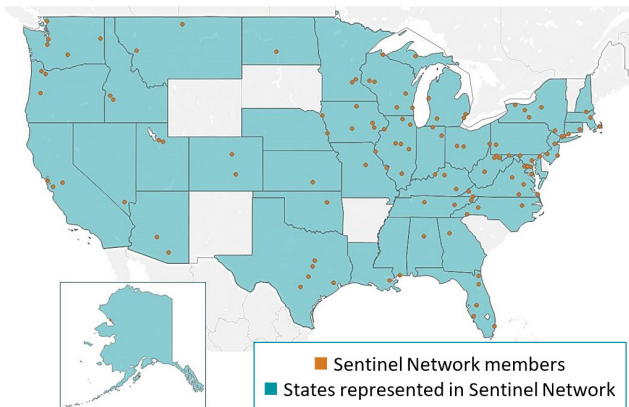
Introduction

Across the U.S., rates of STIs are on the rise. Not only are many STIs asymptomatic and undetected, but traditional urine-based screening often fails to identify STIs in extragenital sites (e.g., urethra, vagina, pharynx, rectum) where many cases occur. Many providers are unaware of the importance of extragenital testing and others face barriers to utilizing it.



Local health departments (LHDs) are on the frontlines, responding to the STI epidemic by assuring access to testing and treatment and promoting best practices at the local level. To assess LHD efforts to implement and promote extragenital testing, NACCHO queried a convenience sample consisting of its HIV, STI, and Viral Hepatitis Sentinel Network. The Sentinel Network is comprised of 130 LHD staff working in HIV, STI, and viral hepatitis

programs in more than 40 states across the country. The survey, conducted in February 2020, was completed by 83 Sentinel Network members for a response rate of 64%.

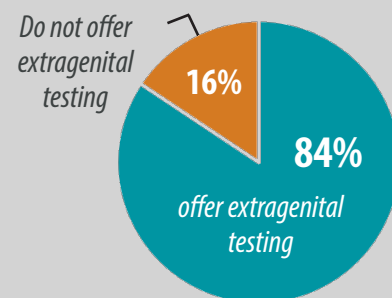


Snapshot

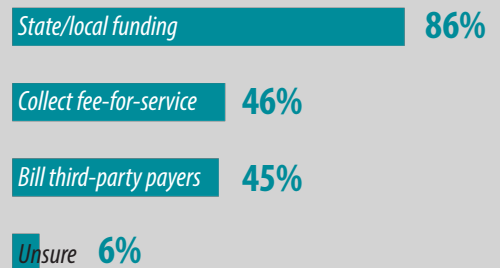
Most Sentinel Network members reported offering extragenital testing. However, LHDs have different protocols regarding which patients receive extragenital testing.

- More than 2/3 offer testing based on patients' reported **sites of exposure**
- Nearly 1/4 offer testing **by population**
- Nearly 1/4 offer testing to **all STI patients**

Availability of Extragenital Testing at LHDs



Funding Sources for Extragenital Testing



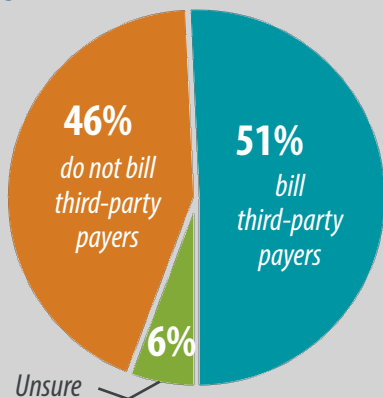
[FACT SHEET]

April 2020

Snapshot

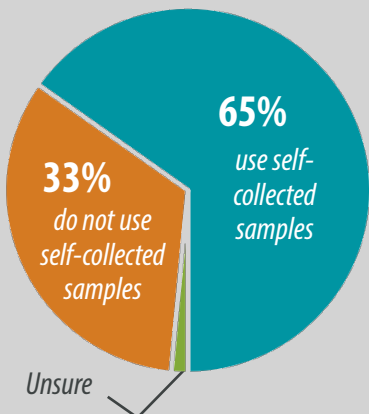
LHD STI Billing Practices

51% of LHDs that offer extragenital testing bill for any STI testing and 45% bill for extragenital testing.



Use of Self-Collected Samples

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of Sentinel Network members that offer extragenital testing use self-collected samples.



“We will be offering in-home STD test kits through our needle exchange vending machines and online through our website.”

— Sentinel Network member

Extragenital Testing Promotion Efforts

Nearly half (46%) of respondents promote extragenital testing among providers in the community, 40% do not promote, and 14% were unsure of promotional efforts. LHDs shared a variety of strategies they've used to promote extragenital testing among providers in their communities. Common approaches include conducting **provider education sessions** and **public health detailing**, and sending out **newsletters and educational materials**. Other promising strategies including offering **continuing medical education** credits to incentivize provider participation, **providing funding to local clinics** to create protocols and train providers, and **distributing STI testing kits** to providers and the public.

Barriers and Needs

LHDs that offer extragenital testing reported needing the following to scale-up extragenital testing:

- Funding (42%)
- Nothing — already scaled up (41%)
- Increased staff leadership/knowledge of the importance of extragenital testing (22%)

LHDs that do not offer extragenital testing reported the following as reasons:

- Don't offer any STI testing (54%)
- Lack of funding (38%)
- Other reasons (31%)

LHDs indicated that the following factors would enable them to start offering extragenital testing:

- Funding (54%)
- Other (38%)
- Updated screening or sexual history-taking protocols (31%)
- Increased staff leadership/knowledge of the importance of extragenital testing (31%)

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health



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The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.

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